The invention claimed is:

1   1. A method for controlling messages in a communication system, comprising the steps
2   of:

3   sending a message blocking request from a first network component to a second network
4   component, the message blocking request identifying a third network component; and
5   preventing messages from being communicated from the third network component to the
6   first network component.

1   2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the second
2   network component.

1   3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of send a message blocking
2   command to the third network component.

1   4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the third
2   network component.

1   5. The method of claim 1, wherein the message blocking request specifies a duration of a
2   blocking period.

1   6. The method of claim 1, wherein the message blocking request specifies at least one
2   acceptance interval during a blocking period, the acceptance interval being a period during which
3   at least one message may be communicated from the third network component to the first
4   network component.

1   7. The method of claim 1, wherein the message blocking request specifies an action to be
2   taken by the third network element instead of communicating a message from the third network
3   component to the first network component.

1   8. The method of claim 7, wherein the second network component may modify the action
2   specified in the message blocking request.

(handwritten: sub cl 3)

1
2 of:
3   9. A method for controlling messages in a communication system, comprising the steps
4 sending a message blocking request from a first MSC to a SCF, the message blocking
5 request identifying a second MSC; and

preventing messages from being communicated from the second MSC to the first MSC.

1   10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the SCF.

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1   11. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of send a message blocking
2 command to the second MSC.

1   12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the second
2 MSC.

1   13. The method of claim 9, wherein the message blocking request specifies a duration of
2 a blocking period.

1   14. The method of claim 9, wherein the message blocking request specifies at least one
2 acceptance interval during a blocking period, the acceptance interval being a period during which
3 at least one message may be communicated from the second MSC to the first MSC.

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1   15. The method of claim 9, wherein the message blocking request specifies an action to
2 be taken by the third network element instead of communicating a message from the second MSC
3 to the first MSC.

1   16. The method of claim 15, wherein the SCF may modify the action specified in the
2 message blocking request.

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